

Flannel & Band Tees

By Statiscit

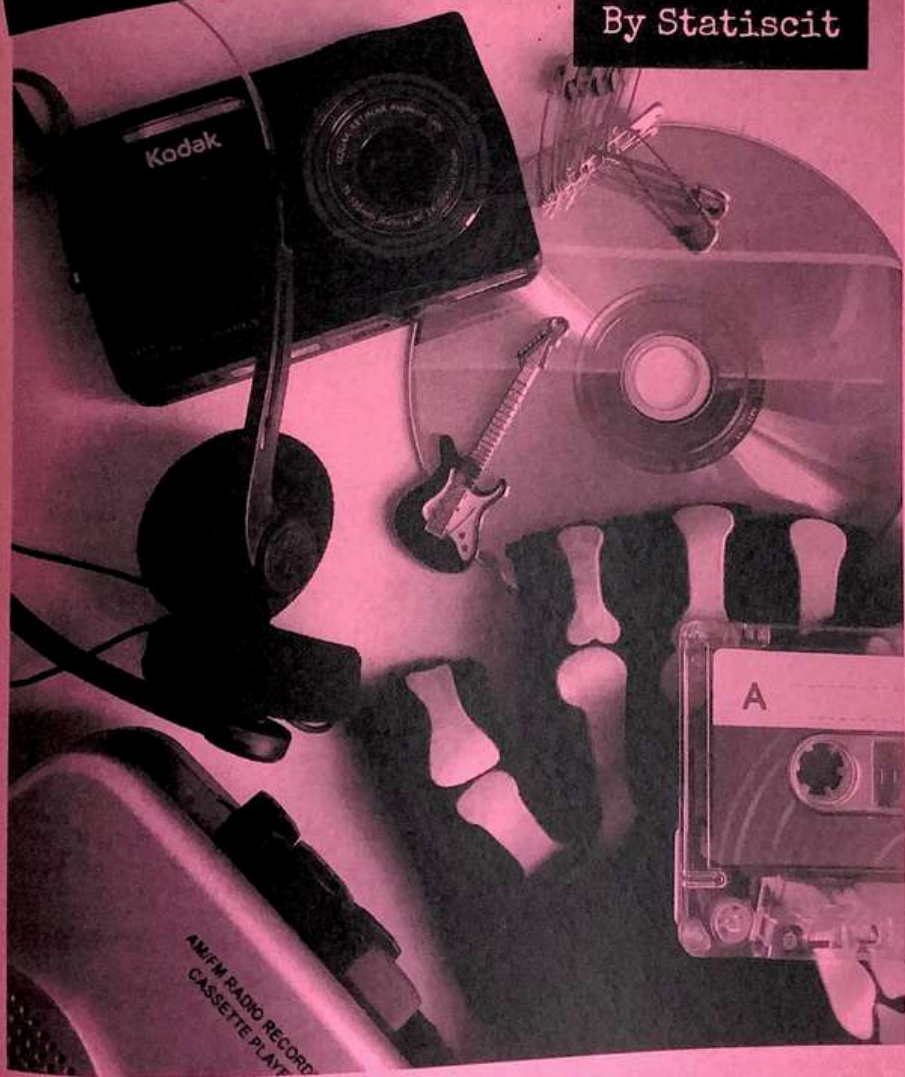


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Introduction

Picture this, you're in a record store located somewhere in Petaling Jaya when suddenly you spot a short figure near the CD rack craning her neck to see the spines of each jewel case. That's me. The peculiar girl wearing flannel over a band tee.

I wouldn't view myself as unique in any way but I sure am to say the very least, unlike my other peers. I've had a bit of a hard time fitting in growing up and I still am in that awkward phase to be completely honest. I have friends but they were for the most part nothing like me. For example my father likes to collect antiques so naturally as her daughter, I too grew very fond of collecting my own set of "useless" items. I collect CDs and sometimes cassettes. They usually cost around RM10 to RM40 on average and for a lover of all physical media, CDs were deemed as perfect to me.

I'm getting off track now, where was I? Right, I'm different. Not in a "I'm not like other girls" kind of way but moreso in a "I've felt alone my whole life and I don't know why" kind of way. And it sucks. It sucks sitting at home every weekend doing nothing while everyone else is out and about at the mall. It sucks that when I DO go out I have to face seeing other people my age having fun and I know their win is not my loss but sometimes that's all it ever feels like. It sucks feeling like no matter what I do, no matter how hard I try to understand why others are the way they are, I still could not grasp why I feel the way I do. And that's why I'm making this zine. So that hopefully, somewhere out there in this country, someone my age feels the same way I do. I want this zine to capture teenage angst and anger in all it's glory.

But why a zine?

Back in the 70s, zines were a way sort of a way to pass down information without being silenced by the media because they were primarily self published so you could practically just write whatever you wanted without worrying about much so isn't that neat?

Due to its nature, zines were primarily synonymous with punk culture or the alike and although I'm no punk I still find that to be a very cool detail about its history.

But that still doesn't answer the question, why am I making a zine? And the answer to that is, well uh it's complicated. Maybe it's because I want to be heard, maybe it's purely for the fact that I just think zines are cool and therefore by making one I get to deem myself as cool but at the end of the day I don't actually need a proper reason now do I? It's my zine after all and I have every right to tell you anything I want. Besides, you chose to read it.

I like writing you see but publishing a whole book takes up way too much time and the process is just way too tedious so when I discovered zines for the first time it felt like a door opened up for me.

I realised that I didn't need the approval of others to put out what I wanted the public to hear because y'know what I have every right to voice out my opinions on anything I want to and screw everyone who tells me the opposite!

So welcome to my zine, where I, a 16 soon to be 17 year old girl tell you about all the things that goes on in my busy mind, the things that make me mad and the things that the average person would find to be very dull and uninteresting. Happy reading!

So physical media, let's talk about it. Once upon a very long time ago before I was born, before the rise of streaming services owned by evil corporate companies that don't pay artists, we had vinyl. And then the cassette. And then CDs. And then the MP3 player. In the case of films you had VHS tapes and DVDs. But soon nobody needed any of that because everything was in the palm of your hand. Inconvenience no longer became a problem.

Although I'm not that old I remember when Speedy Video was still around and when selling pirated DVDs at the night market was a norm. It was basically the only way for young me to watch films besides going online or watching television. And as for CDs I mostly didn't care about them that much until I gained some sort of love and enlightenment for physical media at the ripe age of 15 which to be honest is not that long ago as I'm currently typing this.

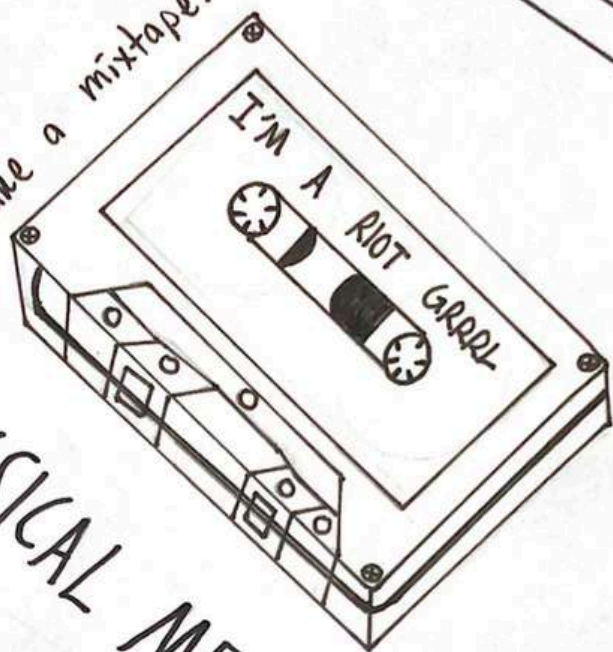


And I don't know what it is or how to exactly explain it but there's just something so special about physical media especially in this day and age. I didn't have that much prior experience with the medium so certainly it couldn't be nostalgia that has a chokehold on me. It's something about hearing the sound of a cassette rolling around it's tape in the player. Something about reading the lyrics in the booklet that came in your jewel case as your CD plays. When you physically own an album you tend to gain a higher appreciation towards it, all the work and effort that went into it. That to me is why I feel that physical media is still relevant today.

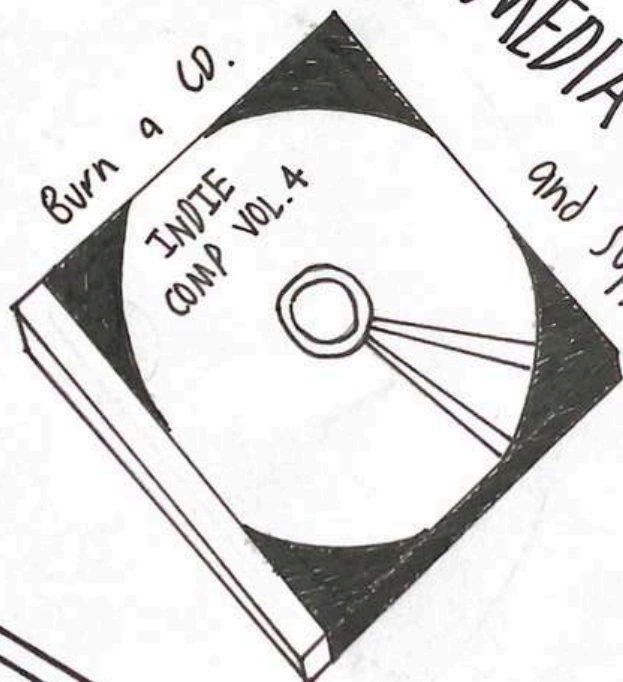
A couple decades ago home taping was a crime because it was "killing the music industry" and look at it now destroying itself by not meeting the demands of both consumers and artists. Well what I'm trying to say is, buy a CD or a record, it's the least we can do to support our local acts eh? Because surely the ones at the top won't be feeding them any crumbs.

SAVE PHYSICAL MEDIA


Make a mixtape.



Burn a CD.



and support local acts
- Statiscit



Punks. Goths. Skinheads. Hippies. Mods and rockers. Everyone who was deemed as different had a place to belong at some point. The concept of alternative subcultures have always appealed to me even at a fairly young age although my interest gravitated more towards those which were common in the 2000s such as scene and emo. Regardless of whatever it was, I wanted to feel like I belonged somewhere and had some sort of identity. It's natural for young people anyway.

In Malaysia, bygone are the days of indiekids and whatever that was synonymous with it during it's hay days. That is at least in the mainstream. Yes indeed they still exist in the 2020s lurking somewhere although these days they seem to be more common among university students rather than high schoolers. Truth is, your worldview of the type of people you can find out there can be rather limited in secondary school. I could go to KLCC or any mall around the city and surprisingly at the very least find one or a couple of alternative kids here and there.

Unfortunately, being the awkward quiet person that I am, it's rather hard to find let alone associate with these alternative folks my age especially since most of them seem to have known each other beforehand from the school they might go to and whatnot. Sometimes I feel like that it's almost unfair that there isn't really some sort of guide on where I could find these people and that I'm just supposed to let things happen when they do. I know that the right people will come to me at some point but I believe I've done an awful lot of waiting for way too long now and there's just no cheat code out of it. Perhaps I'm just destined to be the odd bloke of the bunch like the main character of a coming of age movie or something.

I also recently found out that standing near the young adult/teen fiction section in Kinokuniya waiting for cool people to show up doesn't really work to find friends unless you're really outgoing and willing to approach people. Sometimes I wish people would rather approach me first but most would just rather keep to themselves and carry on with their lives. It would take a miracle for the start of some life changing friendship to start in my life. I joke about the creation of this zine as a way to make friends and bring people together but I know that secretly deep down I do hope for it. But it's not the 90s and I still feel alone.

HEY! YOU THERE!

(yes - you!)

CONTACT

xxx-xxx-xxxx

FOR MORE INFO

Do you like:

- music of the 60s, 70s, 80s & 90s?
- films, books and other forms of media?

Are you:

- part of an alternative subculture?
- between the ages 16 to 19 years old?

Do you:

- want to find other like-minded people?

If you fit all of the qualifications above, join our meetup at Amcorp Mall, Petaling Jaya!

* this poster is to not be taken seriously.



JOIN US!

It's gonna be a BLAST!



Pictures I took on my digital
camera because I don't know what
else to put in this zine





A Really Bad Poem I Wrote Ages Ago That I'm Adding Here For Filler Called "Everyone Has A Life"

And so I passed by a million brick towers
Lined up like building blocks
And in each one of them
A few windows stayed alight
Like candles in a glass lamp
And in each one of those windows was a person
With their own life
And their own thoughts
And I thought to myself
"How neat is that?"

The fact we're all living in the same world
But still separate and different from the others
It feels all so overwhelming to think how big this planet is
With all the people living on it
But I know that at the end of the day
Eventually,
We'll all meet our end
And to the ground we return
Like how we were birthed from it
And to the ground it'll all go down
Like how we built up from it
And to the ground lay I
Like how I had imagined it

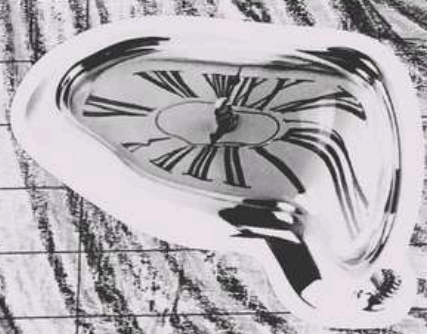
-Statiscit 11/5/2024 [8:17pm]

Taken from a Spacehey blog



THE

VOID

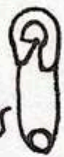
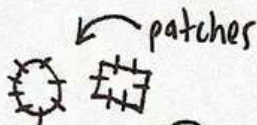


YOU'RE
BRAINWASHED

KEEP THE SCENE

1. Make DIY stuff

- DIY is a really prominent thing in alternative subcultures so if you have some scrap fabric at home, bottle caps, basically anything you can reuse, try making some patches or pins! Maybe even customise old clothing to style it differently!



pins for extra flair



Give new life to old clothes



this doesn't cost much for an indie band!

2. Support the local scene

- Look we all know that the price tickets for concerts these days have skyrocketed immensely and some of us just can't afford it so instead why not support your local acts by going to their gigs?



money.

use this to buy their merch!

ALIVE! (basically stuff you should do...)

could
make this!



3. Make a zine

- Since you're reading one you might as well make one right? Zines are pretty easy to make, all you need is some pen & paper and you're set! You can also make them to be about pretty much anything lol. There's no right or wrong way to make a zine.

at your local
charity shop
day!



4. Go to thrift stores / charity shops / second-hand shops / flea markets

- Running short on money? You can always ~~buy~~ buy things for second-hand be it clothes, CDs, books and even craft supplies. If you have any unwanted items, feel free to send them to any of these places for people who would actually want them.

Most CDs
I have are
used &
second-hand!



Teenage Boys Are Awful

I think many girls my age can agree with me here with the fact most (not all, I guess) teenage boys are just genuinely awful. They're racist, sexist, misogynist and overall all around bad. They say slurs they can't reclaim for fun and make insensitive jokes all because they think it's "funny". And sometimes I wonder why, what about them makes them the way they are?

Look, we've all heard of the saying "boys will be boys" but like a clever person has once said, that saying isn't a reasonable excuse for their terrible behaviour. It's true that evidently girls tend to mature a lot faster than boys, girls also go through puberty a lot younger and in no way am I claiming that girls can't also be really bad people, I'm just wondering why it's mostly young boys who are!

I get it, influence and just the general people they surround themselves with can play in as a big factor on their attitude and yes they can learn to mature and learn to grow from it as they get older but the reality is some of them just never do.

I've never had too much of an interest in the boys at my school or any school I've been to but I'm not gonna lie to you and say I don't occasionally have a crush here and there or perhaps maybe even a mild fixation but most of the time it's constantly erased by the realisation that it's not them who I like but rather the idea of who they could be to me if that makes any sense.

A lot of boys I've known throughout being in school have always been the same. Doesn't matter if they're good looking or not, most of the time I'm quick to realise that it's just not worth it bothering with them. Having a crush is just a silly little thing to me, nothing serious really because truthfully I do have rather high standards for someone that isn't conventionally attractive in any way but it's fine because I know I'm cool in my own way and I don't need the validation of boys with bad music taste to tell me that. It's actually quite a waste to get anyone's approval actually because you should always love yourself first.

Girls shouldn't be afraid to come to school because of boys that make them feel uncomfortable.

Girls shouldn't need to conform to the beauty standards and expectations society has set for them.

Girls shouldn't be made fun of by boys for having their period.

Girls shouldn't starve themselves because they don't believe that they look good enough.

Girls SHOULD be treated equally as boys and not above or below them.

Girls SHOULD support and stand up for other girls regardless of the circumstances.

Girls SHOULD be able to express themselves and voice out their opinions freely without being silenced by other people.

Ambitions

Honestly, I don't know how anyone can just stick to one ambition because I always feel like I want to be a million different things at once. I can't believe I sort of have to pick one job and do it for practically the rest of my life. That's crazy.

I also don't understand how I'm supposed to figure out such a thing at such a young age, I get that it helps you to at least guide you on what courses you should take up in university when you're a bit older but it's still pretty insane to me that I just have to know so soon.

I want to be a lot of things. I want to be a writer, a comic artist, a singer, a film director, a drama teacher, a record store owner and basically a bunch of other stuff. I just can't decide.

What I do know is that I want to be content and happy with the life that I have. I don't have to be a billionaire or something but I would appreciate having enough money that I wouldn't need to constantly worry about not making enough just to live and provide for others.

The world is constantly changing out there and I'm always scared that the jobs I want will be taken over by technology and that I'll just no longer have a shot at it. I'm also scared of failing and growing up, it's all just so complicated and time is moving way too fast for me to even notice and cope with. I hope I stop being scared some day. The time will pass anyway.



Things I Wanna Do But Probably Won't
Have The Time And Effort To Achieve

1. Start a band with awesome people

2. Write a full length novel

3. Direct my own film

4. Be a comic artist

5. Learn a 3rd language fluently

More Mindless Ramblings

You know I daydream an awful lot, maybe more than I actually should. I'm always in my head somehow, imagining things which aren't real. I guess I do it as a sort of coping mechanism for my dull life. I remember doing it for practically as young as I can remember.

It didn't help much that I didn't have many friends growing up either. During breaks and lunch at school I would find myself sitting alone most of the time staring into space. I don't think it took me too long to realise that other people also noticed this.

At one school I went to, teachers and staff would constantly come up to me and ask me if I was alright because it always looked like something was off with me. Well I guess they weren't wrong but they weren't exactly right either.

I don't know why I do it y'know, pushing people away without any concrete reason. I guess at one point I just got used to my solitude that having people around constantly made me sort of uncomfortable but that didn't mean I didn't want company either.

I have friends certainly but I'm never extremely close with them, even if the other person views it that way. They're nice to have around but there will always be those random moments of realisation that I don't exactly fit in here in this group of people.

Making friends is hard. I guess I don't exactly make myself seem very approachable either. I always look sad all the time and I'm quiet unless you decide to approach me first. My interests are kinda weird and aren't exactly too common among the average people my age. I don't have pretty privilege or anything like that and I'm not really funny. I can be a bit mean or sarcastic. I talk really loudly sometimes without realising. I hold lots of grudges on people even though I know I shouldn't do that. I'm a hypocrite and some things I say and believe in go against how I actually act in real life. There's times in my life where I realise that I can be the problem and that I'm not really a good person and I don't grow too much from it. I have all these things to say but I can never express them properly so I sort of just drown in regret sometimes.

I don't know. It's a peculiar thing to be a teenager sometimes. Just when you thought this was awful it can actually get a lot worse when you're older so I might as well enjoy my youth while it lasts even if the teenage dream has been a lie all this time. Films, books and the internet have set up unrealistic expectations for myself to say the least but that doesn't mean I can't try to make them a reality.

I'm running out of things to say here now so maybe you gained some sort of enlightenment from all of this and if you didn't, well I wouldn't be too surprised either. I really thought I had it all planned out but I guess everything I make just ends up as a sad little pity party for myself that nobody actually cares about.



21/01/2023



I yearn for a
life where all of
my daydreams are
finally true.

I want to wake up each
day with the morning sun
glimmering on my face. When
I open the window I want
to feel the fresh breeze of
wind. I want to spend a
life with the people I love.
A life where I never have to
live in my head again.



THANK YOU FOR READING!

Hey there reader, just wanted to say thank you so much for reading this zine regardless if it is a physical or a digital copy of it. A lot of love and effort went into making this & I apologise deeply if there are any errors here and there since this is my first official zine ever.

If you are reading a physical version of this zine and at some point no longer wish to keep it (I hope you keep it though because if you don't that will make me very sad!) then I advise you to at least help me recycle it.

I'd also like to thank you to all the friends & family who have helped me along the way, as well as all the cool artists out there who have inspired me in the making of this zine.

- Statiscit

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